

# The Dead Horse DISPATCH

February 2011

A newsletter by and for the volunteers of Dead Horse Ranch State Park

**There was a HOT TIME at DHRSP!!!**



(left) From left to right, Pat Rhoads, Justin Swiger, George Christianson and Tony Viotti try to burn a test patch of cattails at the West Lagoon. However, the cattails were pretty thin at that spot and wouldn't burn.

(right) When the wind wasn't blowing, the fire danced through the cattails like delicate flowers.

But when the wind did come up and the thicker patches of cattails were ignited, a roaring inferno was created. Working with Dead Horse Staff was the Cottonwood Fire Department, keeping an eye on the fire, making sure it didn't get out of control.

(below) Rangers were able to burn a huge pile of tumbleweeds and brush at Los Alamos. However, efforts to burn tumbleweed at Lower Day Use weren't as successful. The park will not be able to get another burn permit until March.



(above) Justin Swiger (yes! he's back), Pat Rhoads and a Cottonwood firefighter keep an eye on the flames as the cattails burn at the East Lagoon.

Pictures and story submitted by Nan Hephner

Thanks for the newsletter, Carolyn. Also, to Les and Elizabeth, it has not been extra warm here at Karchner, but I would rather see you in Alaska in the summer—ha! Sue and Don Neal

Hi, I've posted two stories, one on the inevitable repairs required on a new camper and the other "The Life of a Snowbird" Hope you enjoy,

Douglas Palosaari

<http://rovingreportsbydoug.blogspot.com> and <http://picasaweb.google.com/douglas.palosaari>



## Look Who Dropped In?

Les and Elizabeth Bovee wandered away from their frozen Alaska tundra, to attend a family reunion in Buckeye. They worked in a stop at DHRSP before Elizabeth had to fly back.

Sharon Munson (at the window) had no idea who that long-haired guy might be in the noisy Dodge truck, until she looked across and saw Elizabeth. Les said he got one haircut and it cost \$40, so it seemed like a good time to grow some neck-warming long curly hair. They are enjoying their stint in Alaska, but Les isn't sure he'd like to make it a long-term arrangement. The coldest month of the year is still approaching, when February lows can reach -40F. It was zero when they left Alaska and not all that warm in Arizona when they arrived. They are enjoying their 2-year commitment, just another adventure to add to the Bovee saga.







## Nan's Notes:

*Report from Editor  
Nan at DHRSP!*

Wow: You should see what is happening at DHRSP. Art and Patricia Enockson have a goal of eliminating every tumbleweed in the park, a truly noble ambition. (see the burn on the front page) Janet and Vern Sisson have created a park-like atmosphere along the right side of the road to the cabins. With the green grass and the twisting mesquites, it creates a very inviting area. Meanwhile, Pat Rhoads and Keven Ward are reinstating a trail which runs along the ditch behind Raven Loop. The loops have never looked so good, and many others are contributing their efforts, too. Along with the new road lines and painted picnic tables, volunteers are hearing lots of positive comments from visitors.



*Vern & Janet Sisson creating atmosphere!*



Volunteers Norm Hephner and Jim Harris have spent a lot of time re-stripping parking lines, handicap parking spots and no parking zones throughout the park. With their steady hands, one only occasionally finds spilled paints or crooked lines in the parking areas.



Gary & Sharon Munson, whipped up hot dogs and burgers on the grill, for the Jan potluck. Randall Hauk provided a fire pit, Norm Hephner brought wood, the men gathered around the fire, the women conversed in the studio ... just like any other party!



Pat Ward & Keven Rhoads (Greenway volunteers) have been bringing an old trail back to life behind Raven Loop. Part of that effort was to remove fence posts set in cement. Pat used the jackhammer while Keven took photos. Too bad we can't see all the bone-shattering action in this still photo!

## Farewell to Dan & Margo and Vern & Janet



Volunteers Dan & Margo Albright (Cooper's Hawk), struck a cute pose before heading on to more adventures.



Vern & Janet Sisson (cabins), spent many back-breaking hours cleaning brush and tumbleweeds from the mesquites along the drive to the cabins. The difference is amazing!



## Volunteer News

### Coming & Goings

- \* John & Wanda Ward, arriving Jan 15 (Coopers Hawk)
- \* Dan & Margo Albright, leaving Jan 18, heading home to Benson
- \* Vern & Janet Sisson leaving Jan 31, to Garner SP, near San Antonio TX.
- \* Emerson & Karen Trushel arriving Feb 1 (Cabins)

### Dates to Remember February

- 4 - Volunteer Meeting, 9:30 am, VRG studio
- 18 - Volunteer Meeting, 9:30 am, VRG studio

### February MileStones

- 2-Robert Nelson
- 3-Judi Mangels
- 4-Jim Monahan
- 6-Peter & Nancy Hardy (1976)
- 9-Larry & Fran Nile (1980)
- 10-George & Ruby Stolze
- 12-Bill Fritz
- 12-Bill & Maxine Bean (1983)
- 18-Norm Hephner
- 18-Bruce & Susan Williamson (1967)
- 19-William Turner
- 21-Keven Ward
- 23-Dan & Margo Albright (1974)
- 24-Sandra Kendall
- 26-Wayne & Helen Kemp (1962)
- 26-Harold & Ann Flavell (1955)



Ann & Bill Zeller (former DHRSP volunteers), attended the going-away party for the Sissons and Albrights on Jan. 13. They will be hosting at Red Rock SP this spring. Ranger Randy Victory (yes, he is blonde), chatted with them and then offered a nice speech to all the volunteers, especially the folks who are departing in January.